

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-referenced application is respectively requested in view of the above amendments and these remarks. Claims 5-7 are currently pending. Claims 1-4 and 8-9 are cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that Applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has cancelled claims 8 and 9 without prejudice rendering this rejection under Section 112, second paragraph, moot.

Claims 1, 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by PICMG 2.16 Revision 1.0, titled "Packet Switching Backplane Short Form Specification" referred to as Prior Art 1. Applicant has cancelled claims 1, 3 and 4 without prejudice rendering this rejection under Section 102(b) moot.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prior Art 1 in view of United States Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0036506 to Dove. Applicant has cancelled claim 2 without prejudice rendering this rejection under Section 103(a) moot.

Claims 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prior Art 1 in view of Dove and United States Patent No. 6,947,410 to Schwartz. Applicant has amended claim 5 to clarify the invention and obviate the rejection. In particular, Applicant has amended claim 5 to state the aggregation card comprises a node card that is equipped with an Ethernet bridging unit and an external Ethernet connector. The Ethernet bridging unit connects to Ethernet transmit and receive pins of the aggregation slot, which are connected to the Ethernet receive and transmit pins of the node slots, so that the bridging unit bridges and connects to a direct point-to-point Ethernet connection between the node slots and the aggregation slots and so that the node cards bridge to the external Ethernet connector and the external addresses.

The present invention is directed to a data processing system that has a packet switching backplane having a plurality of node slots. At least two of the node slots comply with PICMG 2.16 standard. A plurality of node cards connects to the node slots. In addition, dedicated links are made between the node slots and an aggregation slot of

the data processing system. The dedicated links connect the Ethernet transmit and receive pins of the node slots with the Ethernet receive and transmit pins of the aggregation slot, respectively, to make the direct point-to-point Ethernet connection. The aggregation slot includes at least one node slot. An aggregation card is also included where the aggregation card includes a node card equipped with an Ethernet bridging unit and an external Ethernet connector. The aggregation card is connected to the aggregation slot such that the Ethernet bridging unit connects to the Ethernet transmit and receive pins of the aggregation slot, which are in turn connected to the Ethernet receive pins and transmit pins of the node slots, and therefore bridges the node slots to the external Ethernet connector and to the external addresses accessible through the Ethernet connector through the direct point-to-point Ethernet connection. In other words, the Ethernet bridging unit is a part of the aggregate card which is connected to the aggregate slot. The Ethernet transmit and receive pins of the aggregate slot and the node slot are connected according to dedicated links so that when the Ethernet bridging unit is connected to the aggregate slot the node slots can connect to the Ethernet.

The invention is a novel use of the defined PICMG 2.16 standard, which defines that node cards are connected to two specific switch hubs through a dual-star Ethernet fabric. The claims are directed to a node card that features an Ethernet bridging unit and that functions as a switch hub as well as a node card. This save costs in small systems with only 2 or 3 cards. The backplane interconnects with the node cards in a specific fashion such that no change to any node cards is required.

Schwartz is cited in the Office Action as disclosing Ethernet bridging unit as found in claim 5. In particular, backplane switch 12 is cited against the Ethernet bridging unit. Applicant respectfully submits that Schwartz's backplane switch 12 does not include a node card having the required Ethernet bridging unit. Switch 12 is just that, a switch and is not the claimed node card having an Ethernet bridging unit. Moreover, the cited combination of Prior Art 1, Dove and Schwartz does not disclose all of the claimed elements.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the cited combination of Prior Art 1, Dove and Schwartz does not disclose, teach or otherwise suggest the claimed aggregation card that comprises a node card that is equipped with an Ethernet bridging

unit and a external Ethernet connector and where the Ethernet bridging unit connects to Ethernet transmit and receive pins of the aggregation slot so that the bridging unit bridges between a direct point-to-point Ethernet connection between the node slots and the aggregation slots. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that claim 5 is patentable over the cited combination. As claims 6 and 7 depend upon and include the limitations of claim 5, Applicant also submits that these dependent claims are patentable over the cited combination for the same reasons. Applicant requests that this rejection under Section 103(a) be withdrawn.

As the Applicant has overcome all substantive rejections and objections given by the Examiner and have complied with all requests properly presented by the Examiner, the Applicant contends that this Amendment, with the above discussion, overcomes the Examiner's objections to and rejections of the pending claims. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully solicits allowance of the application. If the Examiner is of the opinion that any issues regarding the status of the claims remain after this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative to expedite resolution of the matter.

Please charge any fees associated herewith, including extension of time fees, to
50-2117.

Respectfully submitted,
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